(b) Category-wise details of staff are not maintained.

(c) The total number of electric locomotives as on 01.01.1995 & 31.12.2005 were 2316 and 3163 respectively whereas there were 4247 and 4953 diesel locomotives during 1994-95 & 2004-05 respectively.

**Operation of container freight trains by private operators**

2085. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of his Ministry to 'throw open' the operation of container freight trains to private operators will result in substantial reduction in freight tariffs;

(b) if so, whether it would not adversely affect the working of Government Container Corporation and its operation would become loss making; and

(c) whether the additional investment of Rs. 2500 crores in creating more line capacity for the heavy traffic routes would be able to recover the invested amount in a foreseeable future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Electrification of railway routes in South Central Railway**

2086. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for electrification of any railway routes especially in the South Central Railway Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons for rejecting the approvals in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of approved/sanctioned railway routes for electrification in South Central Railway are as under:—